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> Opening of MA's First Zero Net Energy Office Building

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Patrick Administration Celebrates Grand Opening of Commonwealth's First Zero Net Energy Office Building

WESTBOROUGH – Friday, December 19, 2014 –Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett today joined Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioner Mary Griffin, local elected officials and conservationists to celebrate the grand opening at the new field headquarters for the DFG's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) and Office of Fishing and Boating Access. The facility, which is the first zero net energy office building constructed by the Commonwealth, includes 45,000 square feet of office, laboratory and meeting space and features a geothermal heating and cooling system, solar panels, innovative mechanical systems and other features.

"Under Governor Patrick's leadership, Massachusetts has led the nation on energy efficiency and established a strong clean energy economy," said Secretary Bartlett. "This project is another example of how we can achieve a clean energy future while protecting and restoring the Commonwealth's natural resources."

The building produces all of its annual energy needs through a highly efficient 294 kilowatt rooftop solar panel array. The energy needs of the building have been driven down to levels approximately 60 percent below similar buildings through the design of a high-performance exterior building envelope and the use of energy efficient heating and cooling systems, including a closed-loop geothermal well system, radiant ceilings and outside-air ventilation with heat recovery.

"This building will enhance our efforts to restore wildlife, educate the public about conservation and provide safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational opportunities," said DFG Commissioner Griffin. "We are grateful to Governor Patrick, the Legislature and many others who advocated for and worked on this building project."

“Through DCAMM’s partnership with DOER and the other broad stakeholders we are celebrating the first zero net energy office building in Massachusetts. This project developed out of a bold initiative of the Patrick Administration to invest in a better Commonwealth through construction and renovation that achieves some of the highest energy and environmental standards in the nation. This building is a testament to a commitment to the environment and to building a sustainable future for the Commonwealth,” said Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) Commissioner Carole Cornelison.

The new Richard Cronin Building, named after a former DFW Director, replaced a 12,000 square foot building and three trailers that previously housed about 90 DFW employees. The new facility accommodates 120 employees, including staff from DFW’s Hunter Education Program that worked in an office in Ayer and employees from DFG’s Office of Fishing and Boating Access who worked in Brighton.

“The Richard Cronin Building will serve as a destination for visitors, with ample conference, meeting and educational space. The building also offers a spectacular view of the 900-acre Westborough Wildlife Management Area adjacent to the building; a gateway to a valuable recreational resource for anglers, hunters, bird watchers and other outdoor recreation users,” said Wayne MacCallum, DFW Director.

The Westborough building project was one of three projects selected by the Zero Net Energy Taskforce in 2009 as a demonstration project for zero net energy in a Commonwealth building project. The task force, comprised of architects, energy, building and environmental experts from government, academia and the private sector, reviewed 80 planned projects, including new construction and major renovations, at state agencies and higher education campuses that were at various stages of design.

The Administration’s aggressive clean energy initiatives have made Massachusetts a leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy and emissions reductions. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) recently named Massachusetts number one for energy efficiency for the fourth consecutive year. In 2007, Massachusetts had just over 3 megawatts each of solar and wind capacity installed. Today there are 699 megawatts of solar installed, with a goal of 1,600 megawatts by 2020. The Commonwealth has installed 107 megawatts of land-based wind and is poised to be home to the nation’s first offshore wind farm.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is responsible for promoting the conservation and enjoyment of the Commonwealth’s natural resources. DFG carries out this mission through land protection and wildlife habitat management, management of inland and marine fish and wildlife species and ecological restoration of fresh water, salt water and terrestrial habitats. DFG promotes enjoyment of the Massachusetts environment through outdoor skills workshops, fishing festivals and other educational programs and by enhancing access to the Commonwealth’s rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

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